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ABSTRACT

Test results of 1,902 Los Angeles City College students taking the Guidance Examination's Survey of Reading Achievement (SRA) in Fall 1979 were analyzed and compared, where applicable, with SRA scores for 1976, 1977, and 1978. Variables analyzed were raw score, grade level equivalent, English course recommendation, sex, and last high school and college attended. Findings included: (1) the mean raw score was the lowest in the four years that the SRA was used; (2) average grade level equivalencies dropped from 9.8 in 1976 to 9.4 in 1979; (3) 25% of those taking the test had reading scores at the eleventh grade level or higher and received recommendations to take English I: this figure was 28% in 1978, 26% in 1977, and 35% in 1976; (4) 47% read below the ninth grade level and 20% below the seventh grade level; (5) males continued to achieve higher averages than females; (6) the 62% of the students without previous college experience averaged a reading grade level of 9.1; (7) the performance average of the less than 50% of the students that attended a Los Angeles high school was slightly above the overall average; and (8) 21% of the students had last attended school in a foreign country--50% in the Far East and 25% in Latin America; their mean grade level dropped from 9.3 in 1976 to 8.0 in 1979. Data tables accompany the report. (JP)

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LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

PERFORMANCE ON THE FALL 1979 GUIDANCE EXAMINATION

Research Study #80-2

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Ben K. Gold
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JC 800 118

"PERFORMANCE ON THE FALL 1979 LACC GUIDANCE EXAMINATION"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In order to enroll in an English class at LACC, day students are required to show evidence that they have achieved minimum level on an appropriate reading test. The Counseling Center each semester offers the "Guidance Examination" for entering freshmen to provide them that evidence. The test used most frequently in the past several years has been the Survey of Reading Achievement (advanced grades 9 to 12), published by California Test Bureau. This study looks at the performance of students taking this test for entrance into LACC for the Fall 1979 semester and compares performance statistics for the past four years.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

With the cooperation of the Data Center, IBM cards were punched for each student taking the Guidance Examination. Variables included in the data were raw score, grade level (according to national norms furnished by the test publisher), English course recommendation as well as the student's name and sex, and codes for last high school and college attended. SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) programs, now available on the district computer, were used to provide frequency counts and raw score means and standard deviations for selected subsets of the data. Printouts from the program were used as a basis for the analysis following.

FINDINGS

1902 cards were punched for students taking the SRA test at one of

the administrations of the Guidance Examination during the summer of 1979. Table 1 indicates numbers of students, by sex, taking the test and means and standard deviations for raw scores for Fall 1979, Fall 1978, Fall 1977, and Fall 1976 entrants. Table 2 and Figure 1 show the distribution of student scores according to their grade level placement by the test.

Also indicated are the percentages recommended for the various English levels. Percents recommended by the counseling staff for the various English courses will not match the figures shown here, as the counselors make adjustments for students with foreign background, a factor not considered in this study. Comparative data for Fall 1976, Fall 1977, and Fall 1978 are included in Table 1. Table 3 presents statistics according to previous college attended, Tables 4, 5 and 6 according to location of last high school attended. Table 4 indicates U.S. geographical areas, Table 5 individual Los Angeles City high schools, and Table 6 areas of Foreign Countries. Table 7 presents summary statistics for the foreign students for the past four years.

TABLE I

PERFORMANCE ON LACC GUIDANCE EXAM, FALL 1979, 1978, 1977, 1976 BY SEX

Year	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Deviation	Grade Level for Mean
Fall 1979	Total	1902	42.4	18.4	9.4
	Male	909	45.0	18.8	9.7
	Female	992	40.0	17.6	9.1
Fall 1978	Total	1741	43.8	19.3	9.6
	Male	726	46.2	19.9	9.8
	Female	1015	42.1	18.7	9.4
Fall 1977	Total	1904	43.8	18.1	9.6
	Male	787	45.1	18.9	9.7
	Female	1136	42.9	17.6	9.5
Fall 1976	Total	1907	46.0	18.9	9.8
	Male	812	46.5	19.0	9.9
	Female	1094	45.6	18.8	9.8

TABLE 2

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS TAKING THE FALL 1979, FALL 1978, FALL 1977, AND FALL 1976 LACC GUIDANCE EXAMINATION ACCORDING TO GRADE LEVEL.

Grade Level	Raw Score	% of Students F'76	F'77	F'78	F'79
	Recommended for English I				
16.0	93+	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.2
15.0 - 15.9	83 - 92	5.0	2.9	3.3	2.6
14.0 - 14.9	75 - 82	5.6	4.3	4.7	3.1
13.0 - 13.9	67 - 74	6.6	5.4	6.3	5.4
12.0 - 12.9	61 - 66	6.5	4.9	5.9	5.7
11.0 - 11.9	55 - 60	9.3	7.8	7.2	8.3
Totals		35.1%	25.7%	27.7%	25.3%
	Recommended for English 60				
10.0 - 10.9	48 - 54	15.8	11.6	11.6	10.3
9.0 - 9.9	39 - 47	18.2	18.2	16.1	17.3
Totals		34.0%	29.8%	27.7%	27.6%
	Recommended for Developmental Communications 20				
8.0 - 8.9	33 - 38	11.2	14.6	12.4	14.1
7.0 - 7.9	27 - 32	11.3	12.7	12.4	13.3
Totals		22.5%	27.3%	24.8%	27.4%
	Recommended for Developmental Communications 22				
6.0 - 6.9	19 - 26	6.9	11.7	12.8	12.7
5.9 -	0 - 18	1.5	5.5	7.0	7.0
Totals		8.4%	17.2%	19.8%	19.7%
Totals Developmental Communications 20/22		30.9%	44.5%	44.6%	47.1%
Summary		F'76	F'77	F'78	F'79
Number taking Guidance Exam:		1907	1904	1741	1902
Median Grade Level:		10.0	9.2	9.2	9.0
Grade Level/Mean Raw Score:		9.8	9.6	9.6	9.4

FIGURE I

GRADE LEVEL DISTRIBUTION ON FALL 1979 LACC GUIDANCE EXAMINATION

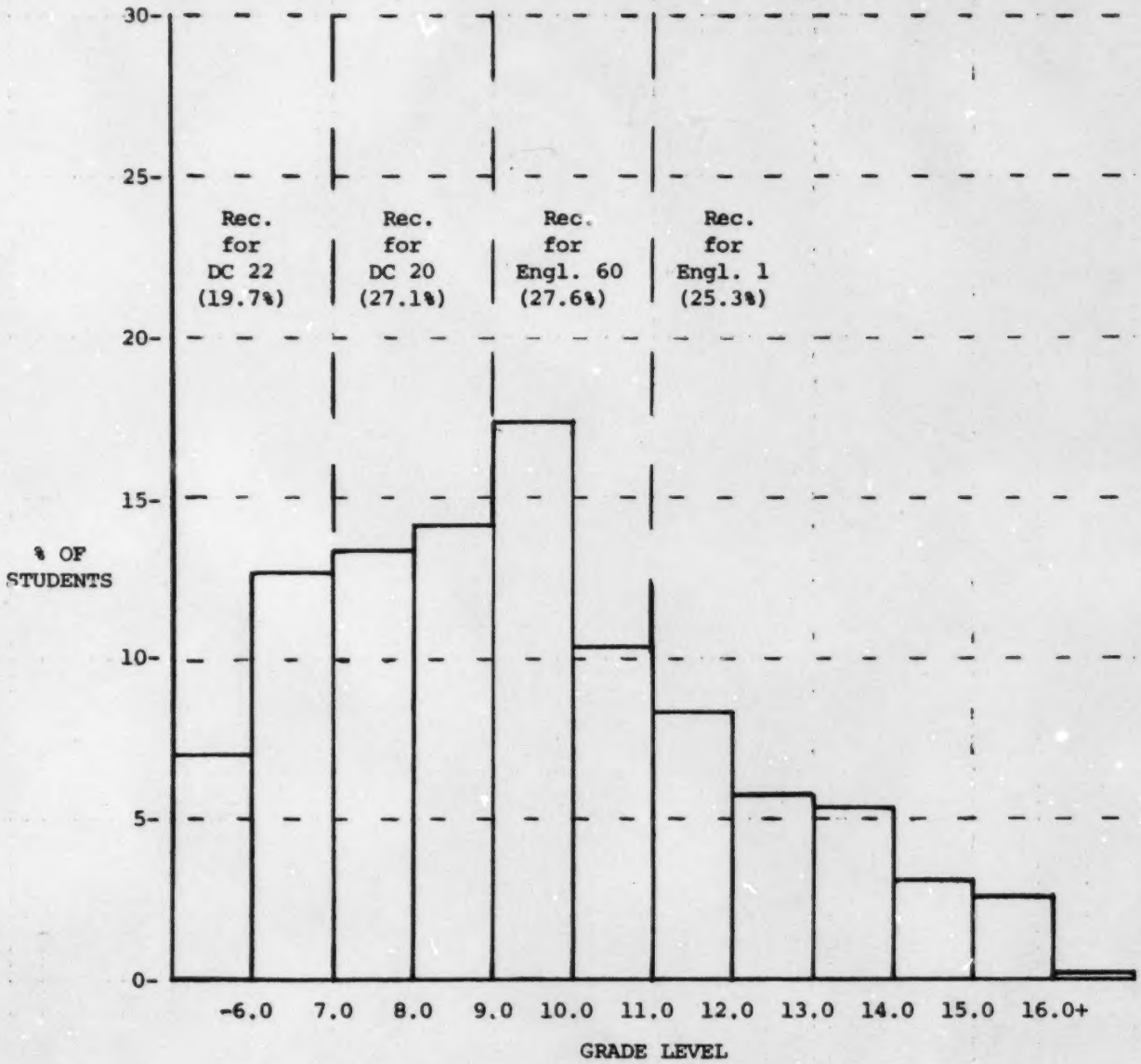

TABLE 3

PERFORMANCE ON LACC GUIDANCE EXAMINATION, FALL 1979
BY PREVIOUS COLLEGE ATTENDED

College	Sex	No.	% of Total	Raw Score Mean	Standard Deviation	Grade Placement for Mean
None	Total	1173	61.7	40.4	18.0	9.1
	Male	534	58.8	43.1	18.6	9.7
	Female	638	64.3	38.1	17.1	8.9
LACCD	Total	403	21.2	45.7	17.7	9.8
	Male	211	23.2	47.5	17.2	10.0
	Female	192	19.4	43.7	18.2	9.6
Other 2 yr. Colleges	Total	103	5.4	49.6	18.5	10.3
	Male	54	5.9	51.6	18.9	10.5
	Female	49	4.9	47.3	18.0	9.9
CSU	Total	12	0.6	56.5	12.9	11.2
	Male	5	0.6	56.0	15.6	11.1
	Female	7	0.7	56.9	12.0	11.3
Univ. of California	Total	13	0.7	57.8	17.6	11.5
	Male	11	1.2	57.5	18.6	11.4
	Female	2	0.2	60.0	15.6	11.8
Other	Total	198	10.4	42.0	19.8	9.4
	Male	94	10.3	44.2	21.8	9.6
	Female	104	10.5	40.0	17.7	9.1
Total	Total	1902	100.0	42.4	18.4	9.4
	Male	909	100.0	45.0	18.8	9.7
	Female	992	100.0	40.0	17.6	9.1

TABLE 4

PERFORMANCE ON LACC GUIDANCE EXAMINATION FALL 1979
BY AREA OF LAST HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED

	Sex	No.	% of Total (adj)	Raw Score Mean	Deviation	Grade Placement for Mean
Not Stated	Total	207	-	32.4	16.6	8.0
	Male	91	-	35.8	16.6	8.6
	Female	115	-	29.8	16.3	7.6
L.A. City Schools	Total	812	47.9	42.6	16.4	9.5
	Male	371	45.4	45.3	17.5	9.7
	Female	441	50.3	40.3	15.0	9.1
Other California Public	Total	134	7.9	51.6	20.2	10.5
	Male	58	7.1	56.1	22.6	11.1
	Female	76	8.7	48.2	17.6	10.0
California Private	Total	71	4.2	52.1	17.5	10.5
	Male	31	3.8	58.4	16.2	11.5
	Female	40	4.6	47.4	17.2	9.9
Western States	Total	19	1.1	52.0	22.5	10.5
	Male	8	1.0	47.2	10.2	9.9
	Female	11	1.2	55.5	28.4	11.1
West Central States	Total	28	1.6	58.9	20.0	11.6
	Male	15	1.8	61.3	18.7	12.0
	Female	13	1.5	56.2	21.9	11.1
Central States	Total	71	4.2	52.4	16.8	10.4
	Male	39	4.8	54.8	17.4	11.0
	Female	32	3.6	49.5	15.7	10.2
South Central States	Total	26	1.5	46.1	16.7	9.8
	Male	19	2.3	47.0	17.5	9.9
	Female	7	0.8	43.6	15.1	9.6
Southern States	Total	74	4.4	46.8	17.6	9.9
	Male	36	4.4	46.5	18.4	9.9
	Female	38	4.3	47.1	17.0	9.9
North Eastern States	Total	105	6.2	52.9	19.5	10.6
	Male	58	7.1	51.0	18.4	10.4
	Female	47	5.4	55.1	20.9	11.0
Foreign	Total	355	20.9	34.1	15.9	8.3
	Male	183	22.4	37.1	16.7	8.8
	Female	172	19.6	30.9	14.4	7.8
Total	Total	1902	100.0	42.4	18.4	9.4
	Male	909	100.0	45.0	18.8	9.7
	Female	992	100.0	40.0	17.6	9.1

TABLE 5

PERFORMANCE ON LACC GUIDANCE EXAMINATION FALL 1979
BY LAST HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED: L.A. CITY SCHOOLS
(10 or more students)

High School	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Deviation	Grade Placement for Mean
Belmont	Total	134	41.1	14.1	9.2
	Male	55	45.8	14.9	9.8
	Female	79	37.9	12.6	8.9
Marshall	Total	87	46.9	16.2	9.9
	Male	37	53.3	17.3	10.7
	Female	50	42.1	13.6	9.4
Hollywood	Total	68	52.7	18.7	10.6
	Male	38	51.9	19.6	10.5
	Female	20	53.7	17.7	10.7
Los Angeles	Total	66	38.0	14.9	8.9
	Male	26	37.5	11.7	8.8
	Female	40	38.3	16.7	8.9
Fairfax	Total	56	42.7	16.7	9.5
	Male	21	48.0	22.1	10.0
	Female	35	39.6	11.6	9.1
Dorsey	Total	33	38.2	16.2	8.9
	Male	15	40.2	17.9	9.1
	Female	18	36.5	15.1	8.7
Crenshaw	Total	29	35.5	13.3	8.5
	Male	13	36.8	12.8	8.8
	Female	16	34.4	14.0	8.3
Roosevelt	Total	25	39.0	13.6	9.0
	Male	14	42.4	14.1	9.4
	Female	11	34.6	12.2	8.4
Manual Arts	Total	24	44.0	20.2	9.6
	Male	13	44.6	20.5	9.7
	Female	4	43.2	20.9	9.5
Jefferson	Total	22	33.4	13.4	8.2
	Male	11	34.7	17.2	8.4
	Female	11	32.0	8.8	7.9
Franklin	Total	20	48.3	16.9	10.1
	Male	12	53.0	19.5	10.6
	Female	8	41.1	9.0	9.2
Lincoln	Total	19	40.1	14.6	9.1
	Male	8	45.8	17.6	9.8
	Female	11	36.0	11.0	8.6

Continued on next page

TABLE 5 (Continued)

High School	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Deviation	Grade Placement for Mean
Washington	Total	19	43.4	10.9	9.5
	Male	8	43.2	10.5	9.5
	Female	11	43.5	11.7	9.6
Hamilton	Total	17	44.0	18.6	9.6
	Male	6	43.0	16.4	9.5
	Female	11	44.5	20.5	9.6
Locke	Total	16	32.0	11.6	7.9
	Male	8	31.0	13.0	7.8
	Female	8	33.8	10.9	8.1
Fremont	Total	12	33.8	20.8	8.3
	Male	4	32.8	18.0	8.1
	Female	8	34.4	23.2	8.4
Total	Total	1902	42.4	18.4	9.4
	Male	909	45.0	18.8	9.7
	Female	992	40.0	17.6	9.1

TABLE 6

PERFORMANCE ON LACC GUIDANCE EXAMINATION FALL 1979
BY LAST HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED: FOREIGN COUNTRY
(areas with 10 or more students)

Country	Sex	No.	Raw Score Mean	Standard Deviation	Grade Placement for Mean
Far East	Total	177	32.4	15.6	8.0
	Male	90	35.8	17.5	8.6
	Female	87	28.8	12.5	7.4
Latin America	Total	84	35.4	16.2	8.5
	Male	43	38.0	16.7	8.9
	Female	41	32.6	15.4	8.0
South Pacific	Total	31	34.5	14.1	8.4
	Male	17	38.5	15.4	8.9
	Female	14	29.6	11.1	7.5
Eastern Europe	Total	19	27.8	9.9	7.2
	Male	8	28.6	6.6	7.3
	Female	11	27.3	12.1	7.1
Near East	Total	18	32.7	11.0	8.0
	Male	9	35.0	11.7	8.5
	Female	9	30.4	10.4	7.7
Western Europe	Total	13	43.8	20.4	9.6
	Male	7	45.7	20.9	9.8
	Female	6	41.7	21.6	9.3
Total	Total	1902	42.4	18.4	9.4
	Male	909	45.0	18.8	9.7
	Female	992	40.0	17.6	9.1

TABLE 7

FOUR YEAR GUIDANCE EXAMINATION SUMMARY BY AREA FOR STUDENTS
LAST ATTENDING SCHOOL IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY
(areas with 10 or more students)

	Fall 1979				Fall 1978				Fall 1977				Fall 1976			
Area	No.	% of Total Foreign	Mean Raw Score	Grade Level	No.	% of Total Foreign	Mean Raw Score	Grade Level	No.	% of Total Foreign	Mean Raw Score	Grade Level	No.	% of Total Foreign	Mean Raw Score	Grade Level
Far East	177	49.9	32.4	8.0	150	46.2	34.1	8.3	116	42.5	38.6	9.0	124	52.3	41.5	9.3
Latin America	84	23.7	35.4	8.5	86	26.5	36.8	8.8	50	18.3	34.2	8.3	52	21.9	39.1	9.0
South Pacific	31	8.7	34.5	8.4	36	11.1	38.5	9.0	60	22.0	42.6	9.5	15	6.3	40.1	9.1
Eastern Europe	19	5.4	27.8	7.2	17	5.2	45.4	9.7	17	6.2	30.8	7.8	10	4.2	33.5	8.2
Near East	18	5.1	32.7	8.0	18	5.5	30.6	7.7	11	4.0	39.6	9.1	21	8.9	30.7	7.7
Western Europe	13	3.7	43.8	9.6	11	3.4	38.4	8.9	15	5.5	44.2	9.6	8	3.4	49.5	10.3
Total Foreign	355	100.0	34.1	8.3	325	100.0	36.1	8.6	273	100.0	38.7	9.0	237	100.0	40.0	9.1
Grand Total	1902		42.4	9.4	1741		43.8	9.6	1904		43.8	9.6	1908		46.0	9.6
Foreign % of Total*		20.9%				20.8%				15.2%				13.8%		

*Adjusted Totals
not stated removed

CONCLUSIONS

Following are some observations on the performance of 1902 students who took the Guidance Examination Survey of Reading Achievement administered to students entering LACC in Fall 1979:

(1) Mean raw score was 42.4, the lowest in the four years the SRA test has been used in the Guidance Examination. Grade level for mean raw scores has dropped from 9.8 in Fall 1976 to 9.4 in Fall 1979. Median grade level has dropped from 10.0 to 9.0.

(2) 25% of those taking the test showed reading scores at the eleventh grade level or higher and received recommendation to take English 1, compared with 28% in 1978, 26% in 1977, 35% in 1976. 47% read below the 9th grade level and were recommended for Developmental Communications, compared with 45% in 1978, 44% in 1977 and 31% in 1976. 20% read below th 7th grade level, the same figure as in 1978.

(3) Male's (48% of the total) average performance was above that for females, as it was in all three previous years.

(4) Students who had no previous college work (62% of the total) averaged a raw score of 40.4, reading grade level 9.1. Of the 38% with previous college experience, two-thirds had attended an LACCD college.

(5) Slightly less than half the students last attended a L.A. City high school. Average performance of these students was slightly above the overall average. Performance according to particular school attended varied markedly, with grade level averages ranging from 7.9 to 10.6.

(6) Percent of students taking the Guidance Examination whose last school attended was in a foreign country has increased from 14% in 1976 to 21% in 1979, a 50% increase. Half of the foreign students are from the Far East, one-fourth from Latin America. Mean score grade level for Far East students has dropped monotonically from 9.3 in 1976 to 8.0 in 1979.

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